



**March 21, 2012**

## **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO IMPLEMENT AN ORDER OF SELECTION**

"Order of Selection" is a procedure where the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) does not have sufficient financial resources to serve all people who are eligible for services. Order of Selection uses wait lists to manage the available financial resources. Individuals with the most significant disabilities will be given priority on the wait list. During or shortly after the eligibility determination, individuals will be assigned an Order of Selection category based on the severity of their disability.

Individuals will be categorized into one of the three following categories based upon the number of limitations in functional capacities in the areas of mobility, motor skills, communication, self-care, self-direction, interpersonal skills, work tolerance, or work skills. Individuals who are Social Security recipients due to their disability will be considered in Priority Category II or I. Priority Category I is the highest category while Priority Category III is the lowest category and the first group to be put on a wait list.

Following is a description of the three categories:

### **PRIORITY CATEGORY I – Individuals with the most significant disabilities are:**

- 1) those who meet the criteria for significant disability as described below in Priority Category II, but are seriously limited in two or more functional capacities in terms of an employment outcome; and
- 2) require multiple core services over an extended period of time (six months or more).

### **PRIORITY CATEGORY II – Individuals with significant disabilities are:**

- 1) those who have a significant physical or mental impairment which seriously limits one functional capacity;
- 2) whose Vocational Rehabilitation can be expected to require multiple vocational rehabilitation services over an extended period of time (over six months); and
- 3) who have one or more physical or mental disabilities resulting from: amputation, arthritis, autism, blindness, burn injury, cancer, cerebral palsy, cystic fibrosis, deafness, head injury, heart disease, hemiplegia, hemophilia, respiratory or pulmonary dysfunction, mental retardation, mental illness, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, musculoskeletal disorder, neurological disorders (including stroke and epilepsy), paraplegia, quadriplegia and other spinal cord conditions,

sickle cell anemia, specific learning disability, end-stage renal disease, or another disability or combination of disabilities determined on the basis of an assessment for determining eligibility and vocational rehabilitation needs to cause comparable substantial functional limitations.

### **PRIORITY CATEGORY III – Other individuals with disabilities**

The number of individuals that will be placed on the wait list will depend on our available financial resources. As our resources and expenditures change, we may need to adjust the priority categories that are placed on the wait list. For example, circumstances may require us to place all individuals in Priority Category II and III on a wait list and for individuals in Priority Category I, defer services for a period of time until the funds become available.

### **WHAT WILL IT MEAN FOR CURRENT INDIVIDUALS?**

The Order of Selection was implemented on March 16, 2012. Those who are currently on an IPE will not be put on a wait list. However, revisions to VR policies and practices may affect the level of VR financial participation. There are 2,558 eligible individuals currently receiving services.

### **WHAT WILL IT MEAN FOR APPLICANTS?**

We will inform each person applying for services about our Order of Selection procedures. Once an individual is determined eligible, they will be put on a wait list. Based upon the current financial situation, the Division anticipates implementing the Order of Selection to all Priority Categories. Our goal is to begin serving individuals in Priority Category I as funds become available. Individuals first served in this category will be based upon their application date. We will provide information and appropriate referrals.

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ORDER OF SELECTION**

The 2,558 individuals who currently have an IPE will not be placed on a wait list. The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation has approximately 2,025 individuals determined eligible for services each year. These individuals are distributed between the three OOS categories. Approximately 13% fall into the lowest Priority Category III; 47% fall into Priority Category II; and the remaining 40% fall into the highest Priority Category I.

